

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00613 211758Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0613

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, CU, PO
SUBJECT: CUBA

1. PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES TOLD ME TODAY JAN 21 HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON CUBAN SITUATION BY PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO CUBA FERNANDO FAFE, A CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATE. SOARES NOTED THAT HE HAD PLACED FAFE IN CUBA AT A TIME WHEN THE CUBANS THOUGHT EVERYTHING IN PORTUGAL WAS RUNNING IN THEIR FAVOR; HENCE HE HAS VERY GOOD CONNECTIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO FAFE THERE ARE CLEAR DIFFERENCES EMERGING IN THE CUBAN POWER STRUCTURE BETWEEN THE ORTHODOX GROUP AND THE GROUP THAT WOULD FAVOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE US. FAFE TOLD SOARES THAT ONE CUBAN MINISTER HAD OBSERVED THAT PORTUGAL WAS OBTAINING A LOAN FROM THE USG. INSTEAD OF BEING CRITICAL ABOUT THE LOAN, HOWEVER, THE MINISTER SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND SAID THAT AT A TIME WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND FINANCIAL RESOURCES COUNTRIES HAVE TO GET HELP WHEREVER THEY CAN. FAFE'S ANALYSIS IS THAT GOC IS NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT AID FROM THE USSR AND WOULD BE OPEN TO OVERTURES FROM THE USG.

3. I TOLD SOARES I WOULD REPORT THIS TO USG AND CONVEY TO HIM REACTION, IF ANY.

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Message Attributes

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